

REMARKS

On December 1, 2006, a final rejection was issued in the subject case. On June 1, 2007, a Notice of Appeal and three month extension of time was filed. On October 17, 2007, Applicants submitted a Request for Continued Examination and a three month extension of time. On November 29, 2007, the Patent Office issued a Notice of Improper Request for Continued Examination (RCE). This submission is made in response thereto.

By the foregoing amendments, claim 99 has been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 99 can be found in original claim 108.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph rejections of claims 34, 35 and 112. Applicants also acknowledge with thanks the withdrawal of the rejection under Section 103 of claim 108.

The Rejection under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 34, 73-74, 99, 100-107, 109-11 are rejected under Section 102(b) over Wilbur et al., WO 97/29114.

Applicants do not acquiesce in the subject rejection. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants amend claim 99 to incorporate the limitation of claim 108 which has been determined to be free of the prior art.

It is believed that the foregoing amendment fully addresses the subject rejection and withdrawal of same is respectfully requested.

Closing Remarks

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks bring the subject case into condition for allowance and notification of such is respectfully requested.

Submitted herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time with authorization to charge the necessary fee which is believed to be an additional two months extension (\$570, small entity). It is believed that no additional fees are due at this time. If this is in error, please charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-5117.

Respectfully submitted,

December 19, 2007

Date

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